

Town of Topsfield
Topsfield Board of Health
Meeting of Thursday, June 28, 2007 ~ 7:30 P.M.
Public Library Meeting Room

Present: William Hunt, Chairman; Vincent Guerra; Michael Waltermire

Not Present: Sheryl Knutsen, Clerk; Deborah L. Colbert

Also Present: John Coulon, R.S.,C.H.O., Health Agent; Michael Cangelosi, Tufts University intern;
Catherine Tinsley, Secretary

Public Information:

Agenda

Abbreviations used:

BOH – Board of Health

7:35pm – Mr. Hunt called the meeting to order.

Mr. Coulon gave a brief overview of the agenda.

APPOINTMENTS

- 220 High Street – New England Engineering Services; Request for local bylaw - Design for replacement/repair septic system.

The design engineer was not present, but his colleague Thomas Hector reviewed the chamber system with the Board, noting that the 4 bedroom design is in compliance with the wetland bylaws.

The Health Agent recommends accepting the request as submitted.

Mr. Waltermire made a motion to approve the design for 220 High Street as requested in the letter dated May 3, 2007 submitted by New England Engineering services

Voting in favor: William Hunt; Vincent Guerra; Michael Waltermire

Opposed: None

Abstentions: None

MOTION CARRIED

- 116 Newburyport Turnpike/Boston Street - Gordon Rogerson, Hayes Engineering; Variances for the Main House and a carriage house.

Mr. Rogerson identified that the main house has 6 bedrooms and is currently occupied. He is requesting a variance to the local bylaw to allow 110 gallons a day.

The carriage house/barn also on the property has 4 bedrooms but was last recorded at town hall to be occupied approximately 65 years ago in the 1940's; it is currently assessed as a barn. A determination is needed from the Board if this is to be approached as new construction or considered a repair.

During the discussion that followed it was noted that the property does not comply with current laws for new construction.

The Health Agent supports the request for a variance for the house septic system.

Dr. Guerra made a motion to grant a waiver of local regulations to allow the septic repair to the 6 bedroom house system to accommodate 110 gallons per day. Seconded by Mr. Waltermire.

Voting in favor: William Hunt Vincent Guerra; Michael Waltermire

Opposed: None

Abstentions: None

MOTION CARRIED

The Board talked about whether the carriage house is an existing system repair or new construction.

The Agent informed the Board that the original system is still in place and although the sewer pipe appears to be separate from the other system he questions if the system is still viable. He went on to say that in order for the structure to be inhabited as new construction, a separate system is necessary which require extensive testing and space but noted as a repair, the lot meets the requirements.
The old cesspool will be located and demolished.
Discussion followed.

Mr. Waltermire made a motion to consider the carriage house at 116 North Boston Street be considered an existing septic system repair based on historical and antidotal evidence and that the Health Agent verifies that there is an individual septic pipe exiting the carriage house. Mr. Hunt seconded.

Voting in favor: Vincent Guerra; Michael Waltermire

Opposed: William Hunt

Abstentions: None

MOTION CARRIED BY MAJORITY VOTE

➤ 118 Main Street - Millennium Engineering, Todd McGrath and the homeowner Scott Moore were present to request a waiver of the local bylaws from 200 gallons to 110 gallons and a reduction of the field from 1000 to 557 and for the use of the “Presby System”.

Mr. McGrath noted that Presby Systems are being used successfully at several sites in Topsfield and gave a brief description of system to the Board saying solids get trapped by little fingers inside poly mesh for biodegradable material that filters and is double vented on either end. The fresh air is supplied for a natural breakdown. He went on to say that there is a reduction in field size, interconnected pipe allows for constant discharge, it is state approved and is the best system for this property.

No grading will be necessary at this location with this system.

He added that the Conservation Commission will hold their hearing in July to give their preference of location.

Dr. Guerra made a motion to waiver the bylaw to accept the upgrade as submitted on the local upgrade approval 9 1A.

Mr. Waltermire seconded.

Voting in favor: William Hunt Vincent Guerra; Michael Waltermire

Opposed: None

Abstentions: None

MOTION CARRIED

➤ Preston Galarneau, Nancy Galarneau and Renei Hooler were present to request that the GalarneauMusic Studio occupy space in the Topsfield Village.

The owners of Galarneau Studio were present requesting to temporarily occupy a store front at Topsfield Village Shopping center (next to Gils and Curves) for 9 months.

They described their studio as providing piano teaching programs in small groups for children ages 3-12 years of age and proposed that their business would not have impact to increase the flow to the septic.

The Board recognized the approval of septic repairs in the area, but noted they may not be completed by the time of occupancy.

The Agent stated that the septic system at Topsfield Shopping Center is in failure and if it fails in a catastrophic way, the center will be shut down.

Discussion included the problems with the current system and there may not be able to renew their lease if other tenants have a high demand of the system.

Steve Powers arrived (9:02 pm)

Recreation Committee representative Steve Powers was present to request that the BOH grant a waiver for the \$50 permitting fee for their day camp held behind the Proctor School, 9am-1pm Monday through Friday for children grades one through seven.

Dr. Guerra made a motion to wave the \$50 summer camp fee
Voting in favor: William Hunt Vincent Guerra; Michael Waltermire
Opposed: None
Abstentions: None
MOTION CARRIED

II HEALTH AGENTS REPORT

Mr. Coulon introduced Michael Cagelosi who is obtaining his Masters in Public Health and is observing this summer in Topsfield.

Mr. Cagelosi recently gave a presentation on mosquitoes at two of the schools and recommends that in the future, this presentation be done in May, instead of June for more effectiveness and integrated with in the curriculum.

He is also working on Emergency Plans, Food Safety Survey and the Selectmen have requested an Assessment of Topsfield Public Health needs and the capacity to deliver.

III OLD BUSINESS

IV NEW BUSINESS

Steward School Health Tallies

The annual health report from the Stewart School was reviewed by the Board.

The agent noted that insect management was done at the Proctor School for stinging insects due to allergies of children. This included calking and boarding up area's for nests.

V CORRESPONDENCE

The Board acknowledged a thank you noted from Pan-Mass Challenge.

This letter will be posted on the web site.

VI FINANCIALS

Revenue Sheet FY 2007 was reviewed by the Board

It was the consensus of the Board in attendance to appoint colleague Colbert to research data on financial trends within the BOH that the fees are fair for the agent's time.

Other Sources of revenue are not currently set up to access because there is no process in place i.e. \$25 per week per portable toilet; construction sites; Topsfield Fair Ground certain events;

The agent is meeting with Topsfield Fair to coordinate collecting fees in an organized manor i.e. receiving checks vs. cash for vendors.

The Board and the Agent briefly reviewed the fee schedule.

VII EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Waltermire made a motion to enter into executive session for the purpose of discussing personnel issues and that Michael Cangelosi is present.

Voting in favor: William Hunt; Vincent Guerra; Michael Waltermire

Opposed: None

Abstentions: None

MOTION CARRIED

10:54 – Dr. Guerra made a motion to adjourn and it was unanimous to do so.

Approved as written at the January 24, 2008 Board of Health Meeting.